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INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

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AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR NO UR SV

SUBJ: 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF NORWEGIAN SOVEREIGNTY OVER SVALBARD

REF: OSLO 3026

SUMMARY: TO GREAT DISAPPOINTMENT OF NORWAY'S AUTHORITIES AND INHABITANTS OF SVALBARD, FOG PREVENTED DIGNITARIES FROM LANDING AT LONGYEARBYEN'S NEW AIRPORT AND CEREMONY COMMEMORATING 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF NORWAY'S ASSUMPTION OF SOVEREIGNTY TOOK PLACE AT TROMSO ON MAINLAND, AUGUST 14. PRIME MINISTER BRATTELI'S

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MESSAGE ON THIS OCCASION WAS DIRECTED TO SOVIETS, REMINDING THEM THAT NORWAY HAS "FULL AND ABSOLUTE SOVEREIGNTY" OVER SVALBARD,

"IT IS UP TO NORWAY--AND NORWAY ALONE--TO PRESCRIBE THE SPECIFIC RULES" FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND ADMINISTRATION ON SVALBARD, AND "NORWAY NEITHER CAN NOR IS WILLING TO GIVE ANY COUNTRY ANY KIND OF FORMAL OR INFORMAL PREFERENTIAL RIGHTS OR SPECIAL PRIVILEGES." TO EMPHASIZE THAT SVALBARD IS "PART OF NORWAY," FOREIGN MINISTER FRYDENLUND DID NOT ACCOMPANY KING OLAV AND P.M. TO NORTH. HIS REMARKS AT A PARALLEL CEREMONY IN OSLO WERE LESS POINTED BUT HE STILL UNDERSCORED NORWAY'S DETERMINATION TO EXPAND GOVERNMENT'S ROLE ON SVALBARD AND THE OBLIGATION OF THE SIGNATORY POWERS TO 1920 TREATY TO "ACCEPT SUCH ADMINISTRATIVE MEASURES AS WE PUT INTO EFFECT." RUSSIA WAS ALSO THE BUTT OF DIRECT AND INDIRECT CRITICISM FROM THEIR LESS OFFICIAL SPOKESMEN AND THE PRESS ON THIS OCCASION AND SOVIETS CERTAINLY HAD LITTLE CAUSE TO BE PLEASED BY GENERAL TONE OF COMMEMORATIVE EVENT. END SUMMARY

1. PRIME MINISTER BRATTELI WAS DETERMINED TO USE 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION TO UNDERLINE FOR THE WORLD COMMUNITY, AND PARTICULARLY USSR, FACT THAT NORWAY IS DETERMINED TO EXERCISE "FULL AND ABSOLUTE SOVEREIGNTY" OVER SVALBARD, AS PROVIDED IN ARTICLE 1 OF 1920 TREATY. UNFORTUNATELY, AUGUST 14 WAS ONE OF ABOUT 5 DAYS EACH YEAR WHEN SVALBARD IS FOGGED IN. PLANE CARRYING KING, PRIME MINISTER AND OTHER DIGNITARIES INCLUDING CHIEFS OF MISSION OF SIGNATORY POWERS ACCREDITED TO OSLO, AND A FOUR-MAN SOVIET DELEGATION HEADED BY VICE MINISTER FOR CIVIL AVIATION FINALLY TOOK OFF FOR SVALBARD IN LATE AFTERNOON, CIRCLED LONGYEARBYEN FOR 30 MINUTES AND TURNED BACK. ANOTHER ATTEMPT TO FLY UP THAT EVENING ALSO HAD TO BE SCRATCHED AND THE DISAPPOINTED PARTY RETURNED TO OSLO THE NEXT DAY.

2. WHILE IN TROMSO, DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS VIBE EXPLAINED TO AMBASSADOR THAT BRATTELI WISHED TO USE THE OCCASION TO CORRECT THE MISINTERPRETATION PLACED ON HIS PREVIOUS REMARKS ABOUT THE ARCTIC (OSLO 2153) AND MAKE CLEAR TO SOVIETS THAT NORWAY WILL NOT AGREE TO ANY CONDOMINIUM STATUS OR PACKAGE DEAL INVOLVING SVALBARD. BRATTELI ENVISAGED THE CEREMONY AS A MULTILATERAL "BEARING OF WITNESS" TO NORWAY'S COMPLETE SOVEREIGNTY. HENCE HIS CONCERN TO DELIVER HIS SPEECH, IF ONLY IN TROMSO. AN EXAMINATION OF BRATTELI'S SPEECH BEARS OUT THIS INTERPRETATION. IT IS A VERY IMPORTANT EXPOSITION OF NORWAY'S INTENTION TO REMAIN FULLY SOVEREIGN ON SVALBARD. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BARD AND TO STRENGTHEN ITS AUTHORITY ON THE ARCHIPELAGO IN ALL SPHERES

AS OUTLINED IN GOVERNMENT'S REPORT NO. 29 TO THE STORTING (EXPANDED SUMMARY OF WHICH WAS DISTRIBUTED AT CEREMONY; SEE OSLO A047, MARCH 11, 1975)

3. FOLLOWING ARE MAIN POINTS OF BRATTELI SPEECH:

- NORWAY WAS GIVEN SOVEREIGNTY IN RECOGNITION OF (A) ITS CLOSE TIES WITH SVALBARD AND (B) FACT "NONE OF THE GREAT POWERS CAN

HAVE ANY DESIRE TO SEE ANOTHER GREAT POWER IN CONTROL OF THE ARCHIPELAGO," AND "IF ANY GREAT POWER WERE TO SEIZE THE ARCHIPELAGO, SUCH ACTION WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY BE VIEWED WITH GREATEST HOSTILITY BY ...THE OTHER GREAT POWERS." NORWAY WAS CONSIDERED COUNTRY BEST ABLE TO KEEP SVALBARD "OUTSIDE THE SPHERE OF CONFLICTING GREAT POWER INTERESTS."

- TREATY AND MINING CODE PLACE CERTAIN LIMITS ON THE EXERCISE OF SOVEREIGNTY BUT "THERE IS NO DOUBT WHATEVER THAT IT IS UP TO NORWAY - AND NORWAY ALONE - TO PRESCRIBE THE SPECIFIC RULES FOR AN ORDERLY ECONOMIC ACTIVITY AND FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE ISLAND GROUP."

- ACCORDING TO PRINCIPLE OF EQUAL TREATMENT FOR ALL TREATY PARTIES, "NORWAY NEITHER CAN NOR IS SHE WILLING TO GIVE ANY COUNTRY ANY KIND OF FORMAL OR INFORMAL PREFERENTIAL RIGHTS OR SPECIAL PRIVILEGES."

- INTEREST IN SVALBARD HAS INCREASED MARKEDLY IN LAST 10-15 YEARS DUE TO INCREASED IMPORTANCE OF OIL AND COAL AND "RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN MILITARY TECHNOLOGY" SO THAT SVALBARD'S POSITION IN INTERNATIONAL POLITICS MAY GROW IN IMPORTANCE.

- TASK OF MAINTAINING "CALM CONDITIONS WHICH HAVE HITHERTO PREVAILED IN SVALBARD REGION FROM SECURITY-POLITICAL POINT OF VIEW MUST

BE REGARDED AS IMPORTANT PEACE-KEEPING OBJECTIVE" AND "COMMON RESPONSIBILITY" FOR NORWAY AND PARTIES TO THE TREATY.

- "PROTECTION OF ENVIRONMENT IN SVALBARD MUST BE SEEN IN WIDER ARCTIC PERSPECTIVE." UNFORTUNATELY, BRATTELI NOTED, NORWAY'S LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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1971 PROPOSAL AT ENVIRONMENT CONFERENCE TO ESTABLISH CONFERENCE ON THE

ARCTIC ENVIRONMENT DID NOT WIN SUFFICIENT SUPPORT.

- ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES MUST BE DEVELOPED, NOTABLY THE STORENORSKE KULLKOMPAGNIE'S MINING INDUSTRY AND THE "INTERESTING SVEA PROJECT." WHILE THE FORM AND SCOPE OF THE POTENTIALLY VERY LARGE NEW COAL MINE AT SVEA REMAINS TO BE DETERMINED, "IT SEEMS CLEAR THAT THE STATE...WILL HAVE TO UNDERTAKE A MAJOR EFFORT TO BRING THIS PROJECT TO FULL REALIZATION." (COMMENT: FIRMEST INDICATION TO DATE THAT NORWEGIAN STATE WILL STEP IN TO FUND THIS EXPENSIVE PROJECT).

- RESEARCH MUST BE STRENGTHENED IN ORDER BETTER TO EVALUATE THE BALANCE BETWEEN PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. "SVALBARD COULD BECOME A CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL ARCTIC RESEARCH."

- BRATTELI WARNED THAT TOURISM MUST BE DEVELOPED "CAREFULLY AND UNDER FULL CONTROL" BECAUSE OF ECOLOGICAL CONSIDERATIONS. COMMUNICATIONS

MINISTER ANNEMARIE LORENTZEN IN A SPEECH RELEASED IN ANTICIPATION OF THE OPENING OF THE NEW AIRPORT STATED MORE BLUNTLY THAT NORWAY DOES NOT PLAN TO MAKE SVALBARD A TOURIST AREA AND WILL "PURSUE A RESTRICTIVE TOURISM POLICY."

4. MINISTER LORENTZEN, IN FACT, DID NOT DELIVER HER SPEECH SINCE THE CEREMONY OPENING THE AIRPORT HAS NOW BEEN POSTPONED, REPORTEDLY TO SEPTEMBER 2. PLANS ARE NOW BEING MADE FOR SOME FORM OF CERE-

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MONEY. IN ADDITION TO HER COMMENTS ON TOURISM, HOWEVER, THE STATEMENT IN HER RELEASED TEXT THAT "ONLY CIVIL AVIATION WOULD BE ACCEPTED" AT THE NEW AIRPORT IS OF INTEREST. IT CONTRASTS WITH THE VIEW EXPRESSED RECENTLY TO DCM BY DEFENSE MINISTER FOSTERVOLL THAT HE SAW NO REASON WHY NORWEGIAN MILITARY AIRCRAFT SHOULD NOT LAND AT THE NEW AIRPORT IN THE SAME WAY THAT NAVAL VESSELS TOUCH AT SVALBARD.

5. IN FINAL ANALYSIS, NO ONE FROM SOVIET EMBASSY WAS PRESENT. SOVIET DELEGATION CONSISTED OF VICE MINISTER FOR CIVIL AVIATION USHKOV, GENERAL DIRECTOR OF EROFLOT D.Y. MICHUKOV, REGIONAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MANAGER FOR EROFLOT CHANTSEV, AND SOVIET DEPARTMENT CHIEF (UNIDENTIFIED) D.Y. KHRABO. DELEGATION GAVE NO EVIDENCE OF UNDERSTANDING ENGLISH (WAS PROVIDED WITH INTERPRETER) AND KEPT ENTIRELY TO ITSELF IN TROMSO.

6. IN COMMEMORATIVE CEREMONY IN OSLO, FOREIGN MINISTER FRYDENLUND WAS LESS BLUNT IN HIS REMARKS DIRECTED TOWARD USSR THAN BRATTELI. HE NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT SIGNATORIES TO TREATY HAD "RECIPROCAL" RESPONSIBILITY TO RECOGNIZE NORWAY'S POSITION AS SOVEREIGN POWER AND "TO ACCEPT SUCH ADMINISTRATIVE MEASURES AS WE PUT INTO EFFECT." HE NOTED THAT ADMINISTRATIVE DEVELOPMENT ON SVALBARD HAD BEEN "MORE LIMITED, SEEN TODAY IN RETROSPECT, THAN WE MIGHT HAVE WISHED." THE OTHER MAIN SPEAKER, FORMER SYSSELMAN HELGE INGSTAD WAS QUITE CAUSTIC IN HIS REMARKS ABOUT THE FAILURE OF THE NORWEGIAN GOVERNMENT TO UNDERSTAND THE IMPORTANCE OF SVALBARD AND PROVIDE ADEQUATE ADMINISTRATIVE OR FINANCIAL RESOURCES. HE STATED QUITE BLUNTLY THAT IT WAS "VERY REGRETTABLE" THAT NORWAY HAD NOT CHOSEN TO PURCHASE BARENTSBURG FROM THE DUTCH INSTEAD OF LETTING IT FALL INTO RUSSIAN HANDS.

7. COMMENT: CEREMONIES WERE STRIKING FOR THEIR NATIONALIST, ASSERTIVE TONE DIRECTED PRIMARILY IN DIRECTION OF MOSCOW. ADMITTEDLY, NORWEGIANS CHOSE TO IGNORE IMPORTANT AMERICAN ROLE IN DEVELOPING SVALBARD AND HELPING NORWAY ASSUME SOVEREIGNTY THERE. BUT, IN CASE OF USSR, MEDIA WAS FILLED WITH HIGHLY CRITICAL ARTICLES ATTACKING SOVIETS FOR NOT SHOWING RESPECT FOR NORWEGIAN SOVEREIGNTY. ONE LEADING NORWEGIAN RESEARCHER ON AREA WAS ASKED ON TELEVISION TO COMMENT ON IMPLICATIONS OF SOVIET BEHAVIOR IN IGNORING SOVIET REGULATIONS; HE CONCLUDED SOVIETS ARE UNDER PRESSURE TO CONFORM IF THEY DO NOT WISH OTHER SIGNATORY POWERS TO APPLY THEIR OWN LAWS ALSO ON SVALBARD. FROM MOSCOW'S VIEWPOINT, EVEN CEREMONY IN TROMSO WAS ONE TOO MANY.
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